FUSOGENIC PROPERTIES OF SAPOSIN C AND RELATED PROTEINS AND PEPTIDES FOR APPLICATION TO TRANSMEMBRANE DRUG DELIVERY SYSTEMS

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ABSTRACT

The present invention comprises a method for delivering pharmaceutical agents within and/or through the dermal and mucosal membranes, utilizing a fusogenic protein. The fusogenic protein is associated with a phospholipid membrane, such as a liposome. The liposome contains the pharmaceutical agent. Preferred fusogenic proteins include saposin C and other proteins, polypeptides and peptide analogs derived from saposin C. The active agent contained within the liposome may comprise large biomolecules and/or small organic molecules. This technology can be used for both cosmetic and medicinal applications in which the objective is delivery of the active agent within and/or beneath the biological membrane.